

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-127 (Withdrawn)

Claims 128-131 (Cancelled)

132. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 129, A method of preparing a transgenic plant cell comprising contacting a starting plant cell with a recombinant DNA construct comprising a plant centromere, whereby said starting plant cell is transformed with said recombinant DNA construct and~~ wherein the plant centromere is an *Arabidopsis thaliana* centromere.

133. (Original) The method of claim 132, wherein said starting plant cell is an *Arabidopsis thaliana* cell.

Claims 134-140 (Cancelled)

141. (Currently amended) ~~The transgenic plant of claim 134, A transgenic plant comprising a minichromosome vector, wherein said vector comprises a plant centromere and a telomere sequence and~~ wherein said minichromosome vector comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, and SEQ ID NO:21.

142. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim ~~134~~141, further defined as a dicotyledonous plant.

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143. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim ~~143~~142, wherein said dicotyledonous plant is selected from the group consisting of tobacco, tomato, potato, sugar beet, pea, carrot, cauliflower, broccoli, soybean, canola, sunflower, alfalfa, cotton and *Arabidopsis*.

144. (Previously amended) The transgenic plant of claim 142, wherein the dicotyledonous plant is *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

145. (Cancelled)

146. (Cancelled)

Claims 147-231 (Withdrawn)